



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a federal jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts against three members of a Brookfield, Wisconsin family for human trafficking.

Jefferson, Sr. and Elnora Calimlim, were charged with using threats of serious harm and physical restraint to coerce a Philippine woman to serve as their domestic servant for nineteen years. The indictment also charged the couple and their son, Jefferson, Jr., with alien harboring for financial gain. Jefferson, Jr., was also charged with making false material statements to federal officials.

At trial, the government proved that from 1985 through September 29, 2004, the defendants employed a female Filipino national as a domestic worker who was responsible for caring for the Calimlim children, cleaning the house, and preparing the family meals. The Filipino woman lived at the Calimlim residence and was promised a salary that would be "kept in an account". She was working to send money home to her family in the Philippines. However, she did not have access to the account or know its whereabouts. For 19 years, Jefferson, Sr. and Elnora Calimlim coerced the victim to work long hours, seven days a week as their domestic servant for little money. The Calimlims threatened the victim with deportation and imprisonment if she disobeyed them, and kept her inside of their home, not allowing her to socialize, communicate freely with the outside world, or leave the house unsupervised. The victim was required to hide in her basement bedroom whenever non-family members were present in the house. The trial lasted a week and half and the jury deliberated for half a day.

"It is a basic and fundamental human right to be free, and no person should ever be forced to live in a world of fear, virtual isolation and servitude," said Brian Falvey, Resident Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Milwaukee. "Today's conviction is a testament to our solemn commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves. The exploitation of the illegal work force is modern-day slavery and ICE will aggressively investigate those who engage in the trafficking of human beings."

Jefferson, Sr. and Elnora Calimlim each face a maximum sentence of 65 years in prison, mandatory restitution, and \$1,250,000 in fines. Jefferson Calimlim, Jr. faces up to 5 years in prison, restitution, and \$250,000 in fines. The government is also seeking forfeiture of the Calimlims' house as an instrumentality of the crime.

This case was investigated by agents from the and the U.S. Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was jointly prosecuted by Trial Attorney Susan L. French of the Civil Rights Division and Assistant United States Attorney Tracy M. Johnson.

Combating human trafficking is a priority of the Department of Justice and the Administration. In the past five years, the Civil Rights Division and United States Attorneys' Offices have prosecuted a record number of human trafficking cases opening 480 new investigations into allegations of human trafficking - approximately 325% more than were opened in the previous five-year period. So far, in the first 8 months of FY 2006, we have convicted more trafficking defendants than in any other prior year.

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